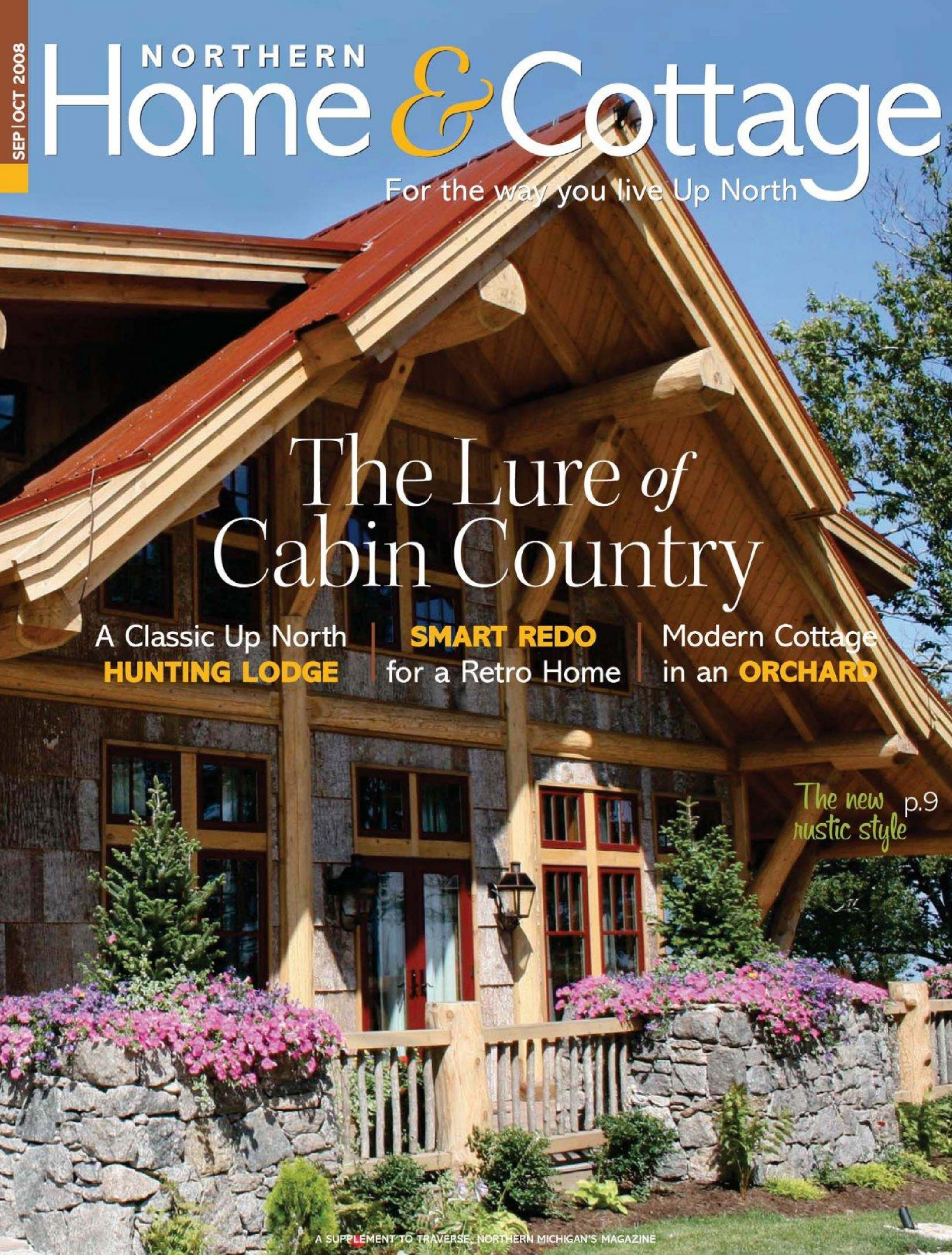
SEP | OCT 2008

NORTHERN Home & Cottage

For the way you live Up North



The Lure *of* Cabin Country

A Classic Up North **HUNTING LODGE**

SMART REDO for a Retro Home

Modern Cottage in an **ORCHARD**

The new rustic style p.9

A SUPPLEMENT TO TRAVERSE, NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S MAGAZINE

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Volume 13 · Number 5 For the way you live Up North

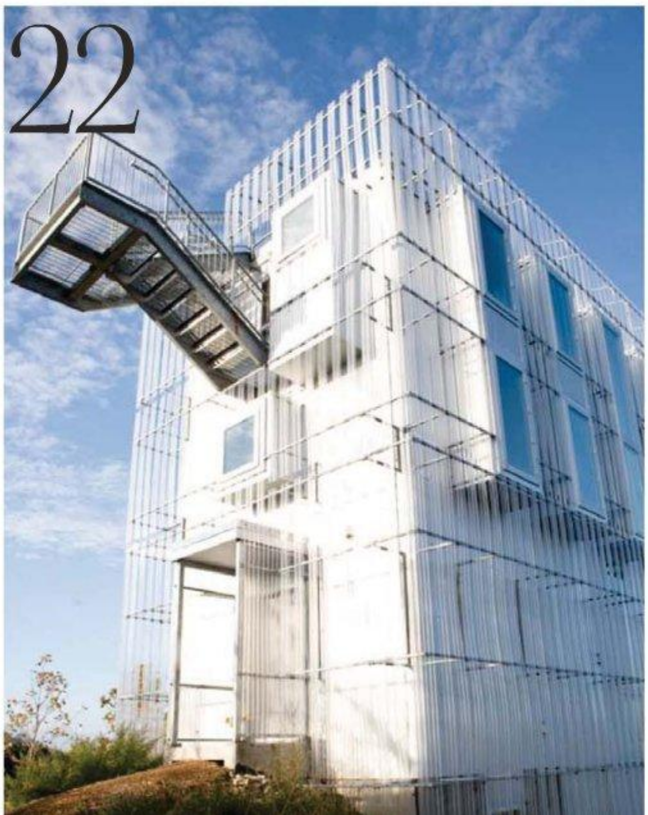
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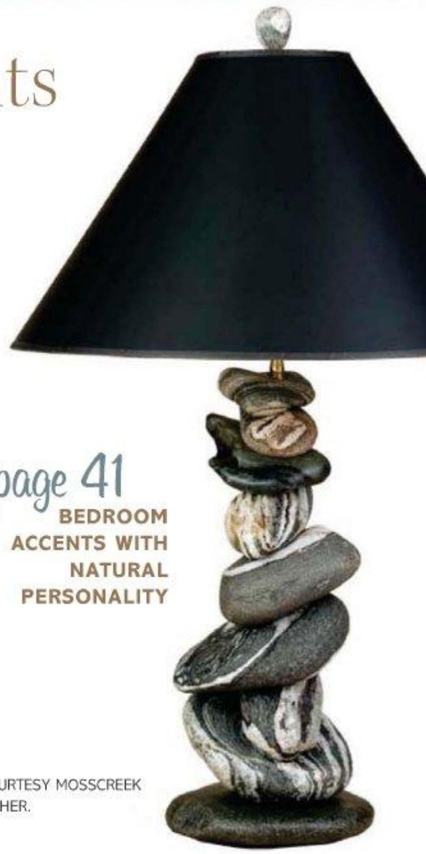






CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JEFF GARLAND. TODD ZAWISTOWSKI (2). ISTOCK. TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.

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BEDROOM ACCENTS WITH NATURAL PERSONALITY

ON THE COVER: THE BOBCAT. PHOTO COURTESY MOSSCREEK DESIGNS, ERWIN LOVELAND, PHOTOGRAPHER.

NORTHERN Home & Cottage

For the way you live Up North

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IRMA

The nature of rustic



CRAVING trees and stones IN OUR LIVES IS PRETTY UNIVERSAL.

Strange, perhaps, for me to begin a note about this issue's rustic theme by telling you about Beth McCarthy's home in Petoskey. McCarthy is a young, sophisticated designer (see her home on p.30) who travels to New York often and Paris occasionally. Her cosmopolitan style is readily apparent in her choice of boldly graphic Jonathan Adler and Lulu Dk fabrics. But revealing, too, is the quiet, natural beauty of an artfully arranged stack of birch logs on the hearth and the willow twigs in a glass vase on the dining room table.

McCarthy, like all good designers, knows that natural materials are a key to substantive style. Craving trees and stones in our lives is pretty universal. Some folks like their rocks and logs straight from the forest. Others prefer them refined a bit. But very few of us want to live without some connection to the natural world in our lives.

And here's another universal: people don't like to be pigeonholed in their tastes. Which is why the world of rustic—traditionally known as the log and timber industry—is bursting open with new concepts and designs. Certainly, you can still get a timelessly beautiful log or timber-framed home. But those pure renditions are only the beginning of what this industry offers. Want a soaring timber-framed great room with log wings? You got it. How about a conventional stick-built house with log siding, or a sleek, cedar-sided home with modernist lines but a timber-framed kitchen? The blanket term for all those choices is a hybrid home—not a very colorful name, but one that certainly leaves room for imagination.

This issue is packed with fodder for your imaginings—rustic and otherwise. As another Up North summer winds down, let it help you get excited about going inside again.

P.S. Mark your calendar: Our first annual **Ultimate Up North Kitchen Tour** is Saturday, November 1. For info and tickets go to MyNorth.com.

Elizabeth Edwards

Elizabeth Edwards is managing editor of Northern Home & Cottage.

LISSA@TRAVERSEMAGAZINE.COM

PHOTO: MIKHAIL ZAKHAROV.

NORTHERN style

Buh-bye, lumberjack lodge. The new rustic is soft, feminine and naturally inspired.

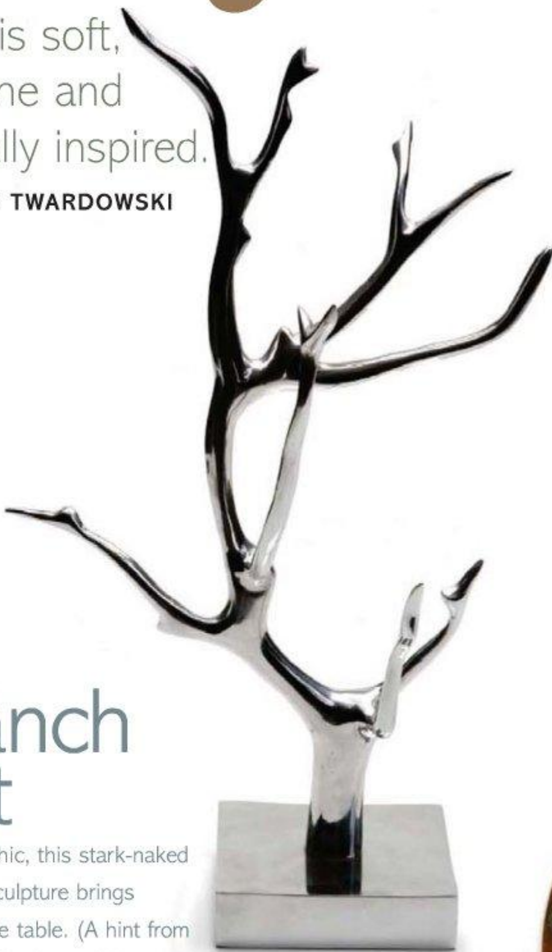
BY **LYNDA TWARDOWSKI**



Bird ON A *Wire*

Feather your nest with an avian-inspired wall hanging—a riot of found weathered wire cradling hand-fashioned clay eggs—by artist Phil Lichtenhan. Several versions available.

$800. MICHIGAN ARTISTS GALLERY, SUTTONS BAY, 231-271-4922, MICHIGANARTISTSGALLERY.COM.



Branch Out

Sleek and chic, this stark-naked silver tree sculpture brings nature to the table. (A hint from Ciao Bella! Garden and Home owner Diane Bell: Atop a bedside hutch or vanity, it's a natural place to hold rings and other jewelry.) $79. PETOSKEY, 231-622-4105, CIAOBELLAGARDENANDHOME.COM.



Open Door Policy

Thanks to metalsmithing master Will Case, what originally started life as humble metal buckles have been elevated high above the lowly belt. The reincarnation: a swirly silver and copper plate that backs an ornate brass doorknob. No one will be able to keep hands off.

$185. CASE-DANIELS JEWELRY, SUTTONS BAY, 231-271-3876.



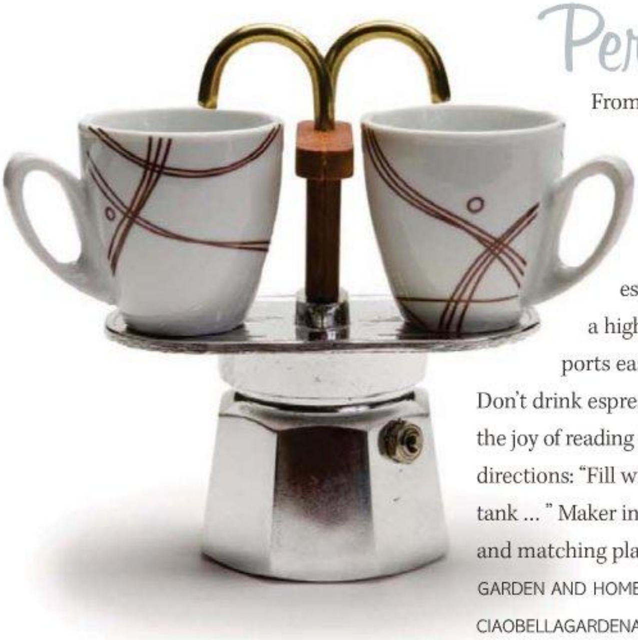


Silk Cocoon

Plump and soften your lodge boudoir with a luxurious layer of silk pillows, printed and embroidered with flowers and ferns, and cast in ultra rich shades of chocolate, gold and cream. SET OF FIVE (TWIN FOLD-FRONT CHOCOLATE PILLOW NOT SHOWN), $559. EDWARD'S HOME FURNISHINGS, SUTTONS BAY, 231-271-6600, EDWARDSFURNISHINGS.COM.

GO COCONUTS

Nails on a chalkboard. Thumping bass from a Dodge Neon. Some things just aren't music to your ears. But this 22-inch chime, hand-carved from Balinese coconut shells, looks and sounds organically lovely—like a light rain on a thatch roof. It's the perfect soundtrack to an Indian summer wind. $14.99. ENERDYNE, SUTTONS BAY, 231-271-6033, ENERDYNET.COM.



Perk up

From Bialetti, the Italian company that claims to have invented espresso, comes the Mini Express, a stovetop espresso maker for two—or a highly caffeinated you—that ports easily to and from the cabin. Don't drink espresso? Consider buying it for the joy of reading the translated English directions: "Fill with cold water the little tank ... " Maker includes set of espresso cups and matching plates. $49.99. CIAO BELLA GARDEN AND HOME, PETOSKEY, 231-622-4105, CIAOBELLAGARDENANDHOME.COM.

Looking for a **rustic home** to house your rustic style? Turn the page.

PHOTOS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.

NORTHERN

style

Rustic's New Look

With its peeled-bark outriggers and use of ornamental trusses, the Bobcat (right), designed by the firm MossCreek, epitomizes the new face of the log and timber industry: a blending of log, timber frame and conventional construction techniques that add up to a powerful Northwoods statement. Designers refer to these homes as hybrids. Here's what makes the Bobcat and homes like it a whole new breed:





A generous use of timber-frame techniques, such as the arched queen post truss that spans the kitchen, gives the home an Old World feel.

PHOTOS COURTESY MOSSCREEK DESIGNS, ERWIN LOVELAND, PHOTOGRAPHER.

BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS**

A Log and Timber Persona

Peeled northern white cedar logs inset into the facade and under the eaves give the impression of a log frame. Traditional joinery exudes craftsmanship. Likewise, a lavish use of decorative timber frame trusses on the interior lends the home an aura of rustic elegance.

Natural Materials

The Bobcat, like most other hybrids, makes use of a myriad of natural materials besides log. Note the stacked-stone hearth in the great room and poplar shingles on the exterior. The shingles are a popular way to create a rustic look easily. "They go on like siding," says MossCreek's Erwin Loveland. "Sometimes people just put them in a gable."

Flexible Frame

While it doesn't look like a traditionally built home, the Bobcat has a conventional stick-built frame. The company chose a traditional frame, says marketing manager Erwin Loveland, for its ease of construction and for the opportunity to mix many types of materials on the interior and exterior. Not all hybrids, however, are stick built. They can be any combo of log, timber frame and conventional construction.

Leaner, Greener

At about 2,700 square feet, the Bobcat's size is reflective of a smaller blueprint for the log and timber industry that has downsized its average size from 5,000 to 7,000 square feet to 2,000 to 3,000 square feet in the past several years. That decreased size translates into energy efficiency and more room in the budget for high-end amenities.

Build Your Own To build a MossCreek-designed home in Northern Michigan contact Town & Country Cedar Homes in Petoskey. 800-968-3178, CEDARHOMES.COM. To find out more about building a log, timber frame or hybrid home Up North check out timberframe.org and tfguild.org.

NORTHERN
style

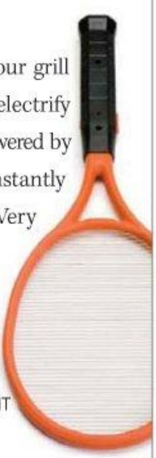


Indian Summer Essentials
Grill Gear for the Cabin

Skewer Set
Banish bamboo skewers once and for all. They're short, handle-less and require a pre-grill soaking. Skip the extra step with stylin' stainless steel skewers by Outset. Their 15-inch blade holds a heap of meat and veggie treats, and the 5-inch handle fits even the biggest paws at your table. $14.95.

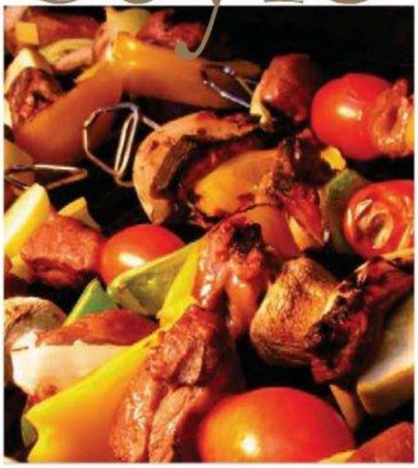
Woodchip Smoker

Love smoking meat on the grill but hate the charred woodchip mess? Slip Outset's stainless steel smoker box in your charcoal or gas grill, and the flavor-enhancing wood chips inside (sold separately) smolder rather than burn. No mess, but mega flavor. $12.95.

The Zapper

Late summer bugs bugging your grill master? Gift him a swatter to electrify his enemy: the Zapper racket. Powered by two AA batteries, the racket instantly zaps and kills flying insects. Very entertaining.

We found these great gadgets and more at The Front Porch, Suttons Bay. 800-307-7210, FRONTPORCHSB.COM.—L.T.

PHOTO: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.



Full Immersion

Shish Kabob Marinades

Shish kabobs are a cabin cook's dream: they're a cinch to prep, easily feed a crowd and, if you toss them on the barbeque, let you linger on the deck rather than in the kitchen. Wow your cabin crowd with these three great marinades:

Greek Marinade
⅔ cup olive oil
5 tablespoons lemon juice
1 large onion, finely chopped
3 dry bay leaves
4 teaspoons dry oregano
1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
Try it with: lamb (leg or shoulder), red onion, green pepper, red bell pepper, whole mushrooms

Cilantro-Lime Marinade
½ cup fresh lime juice
½ cup olive oil
½ cup dry Sherry
½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
6 tablespoons soy sauce
6 tablespoons honey
4 garlic cloves, pressed
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons grated fresh ginger
1 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper
Try it with: swordfish or chicken, grape tomatoes, peach wedges (skin on), red bell pepper, eggplant, zucchini, green onion bottoms

Curry-Buttermilk Marinade
1 cup buttermilk
¼ pound plain yogurt
Kosher salt to taste
½ teaspoon whole cumin seeds, toasted
¼ teaspoon ground cumin
½ teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon ground turmeric
1 teaspoon madras curry powder
⅛ cup lemon juice, fresh-squeezed
½ teaspoon garlic, minced
½ teaspoon pickled ginger, minced
½ cup Punjab saag (a spicy Indian spinach sauce—we found ours at Oryana Natural Foods Market in Traverse City. 231-947-0191, ORYANACOOP.COM)
Try it with: shrimp, eggplant, potato and onion

Note: Each marinade makes enough for eight kabobs.—L.T.

The Pro File

Ryan Sigsbey, log doctor

AMERICAN LOG RESTORATION, FIFE LAKE

877-788-5647; LOGREPAIR.COM

Bio: As a child Ryan Sigsbey tagged along on jobs with his uncle David Tuxbury, founder of both American Log Restoration and Maple Island Log Homes. Since then, American Log Restoration has expanded from its Michigan-based roots to cover the Eastern United States. Sigsbey is the company's project manager.

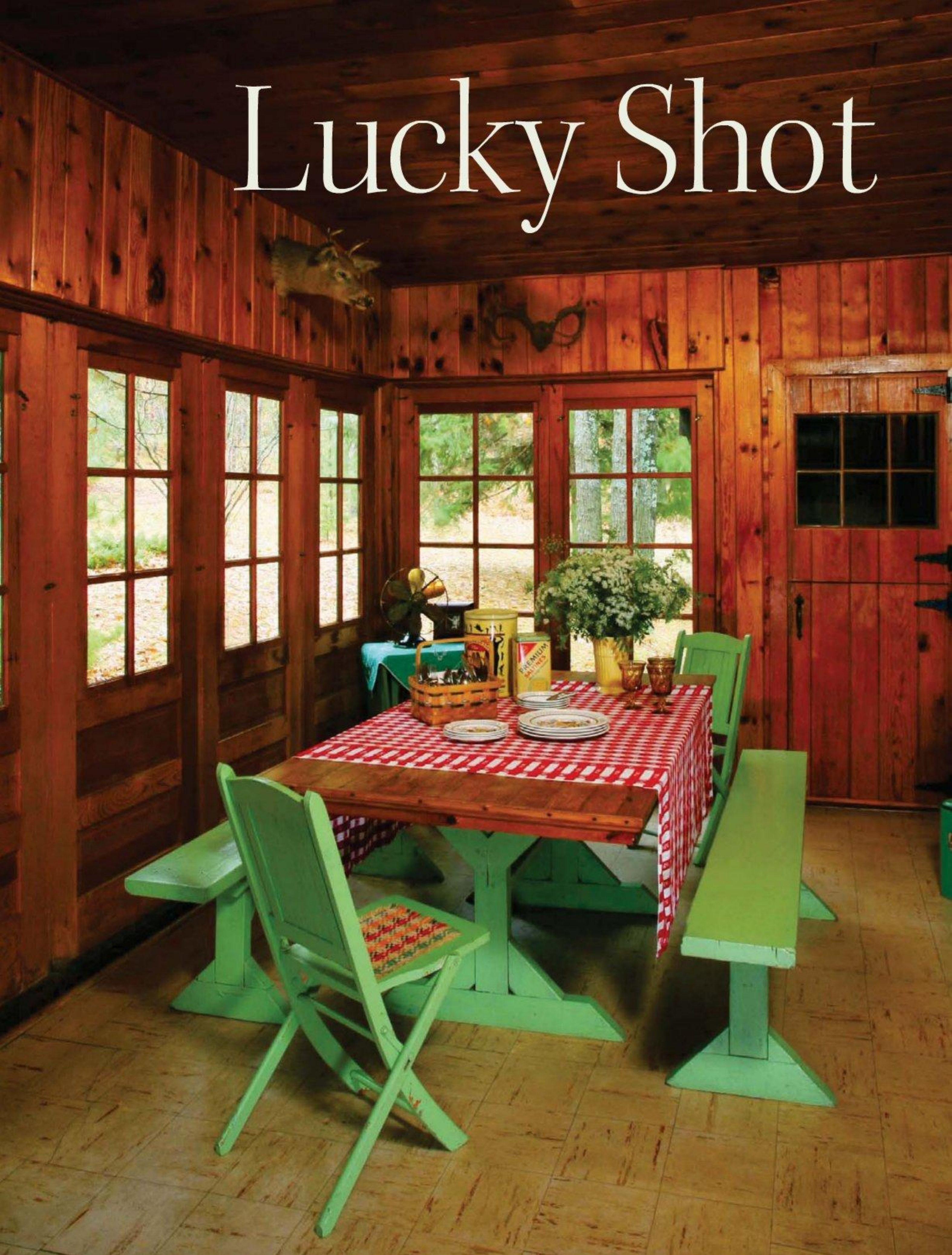
You must see some cool old cabins—what's the oldest structure you've worked on? We replaced a few logs in a 1790's home in Winnetka, Illinois. It was historic—been moved several times—and yes, it was pretty cool.

Is there one common problem you encounter with log homes? Log rot. It's caused by water, sun and deterioration.

How do you fix log rot? Replacing logs is the only long-term solution. There are wood-fillers and epoxy but those don't look good and they are short term. We specialize in matching the new log species with the old one. We also match the method that was used to peel the old log—they could have been pressure washed, hand-peeled, turned or peeled by machine.

Any preventative maintenance? Keep up with staining treatments and keep your eye out for rot. The signs are discoloration or mold. Clean it off when you see it. Tackle little problems before they become big ones.

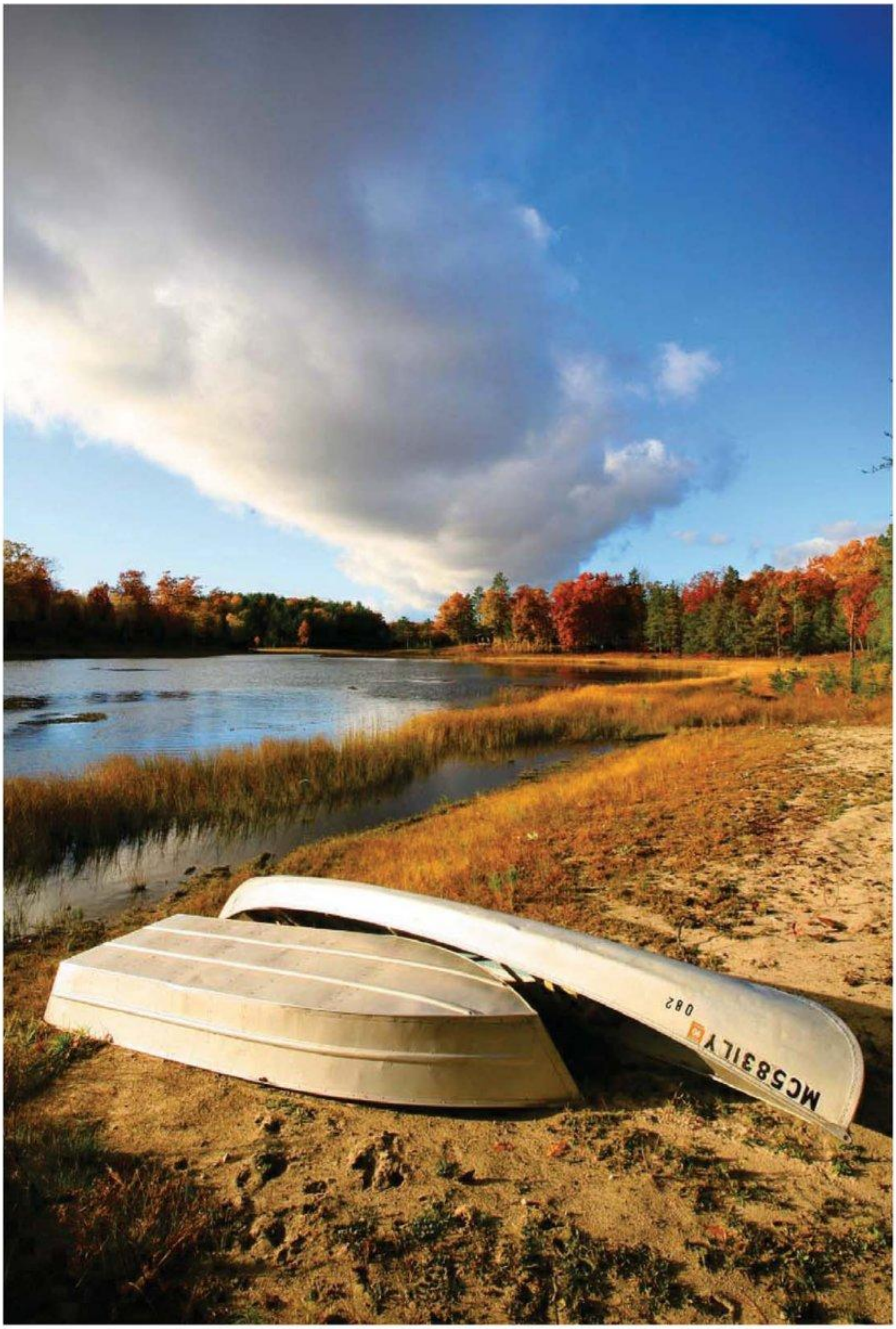
Lucky Shot





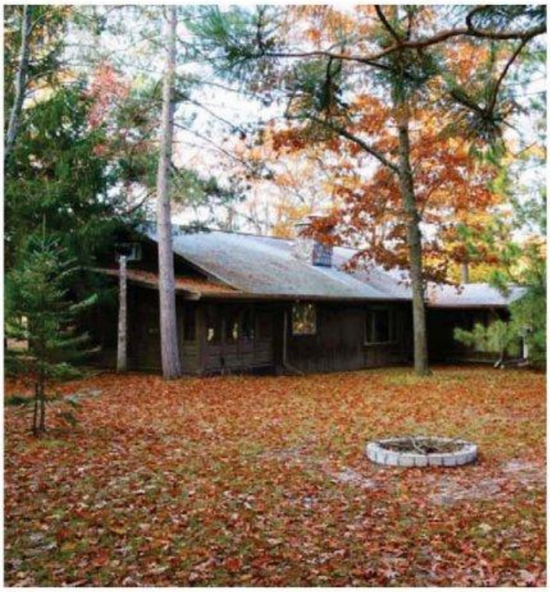
After a long hunt, this couple hit the bull's-eye.

TEXT BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **JEFF GARLAND**

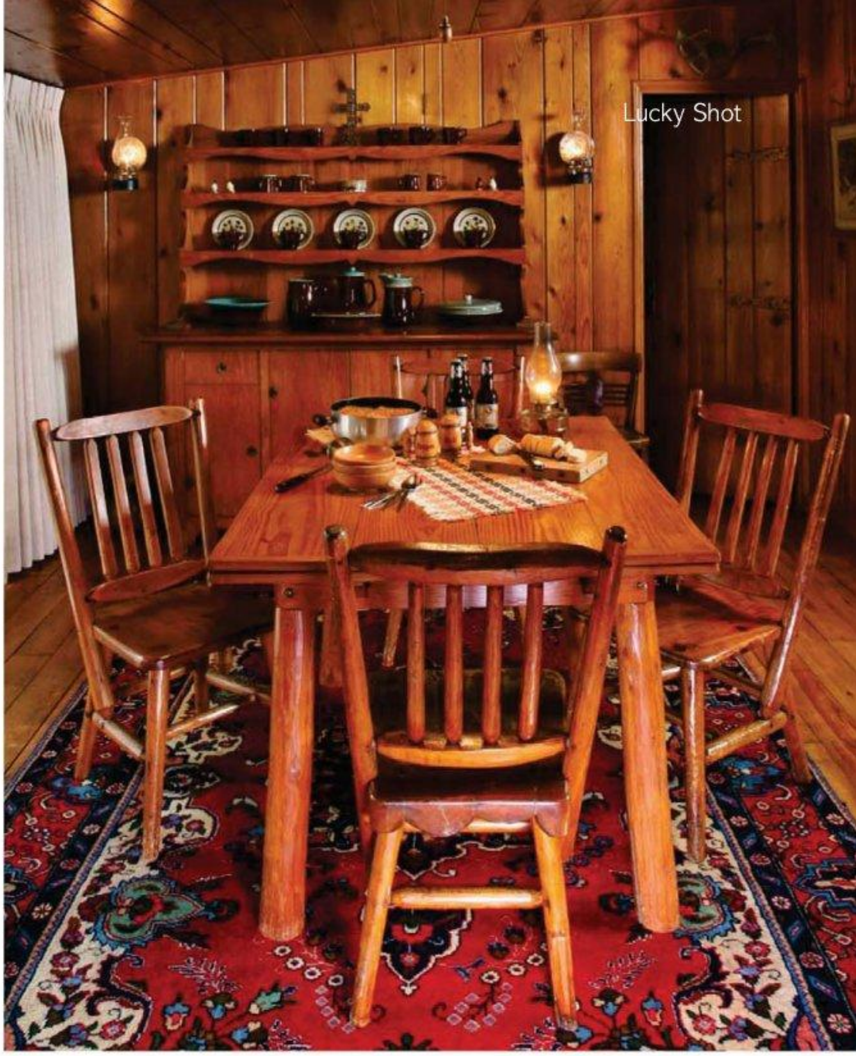




OPPOSITE: Summer dinners on the porch are an integral part of cabin life—the kitchen is just through the Dutch door. The porch windows remove to make way for screens. **THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT:** The small lake outside the cabin door is filled with panfish. According to lore, the arrows have been in the ceiling since a Native American chief and soon-to-be-Michigan Governor Murray Van Wagoner signed a water rights treaty at the cabin.







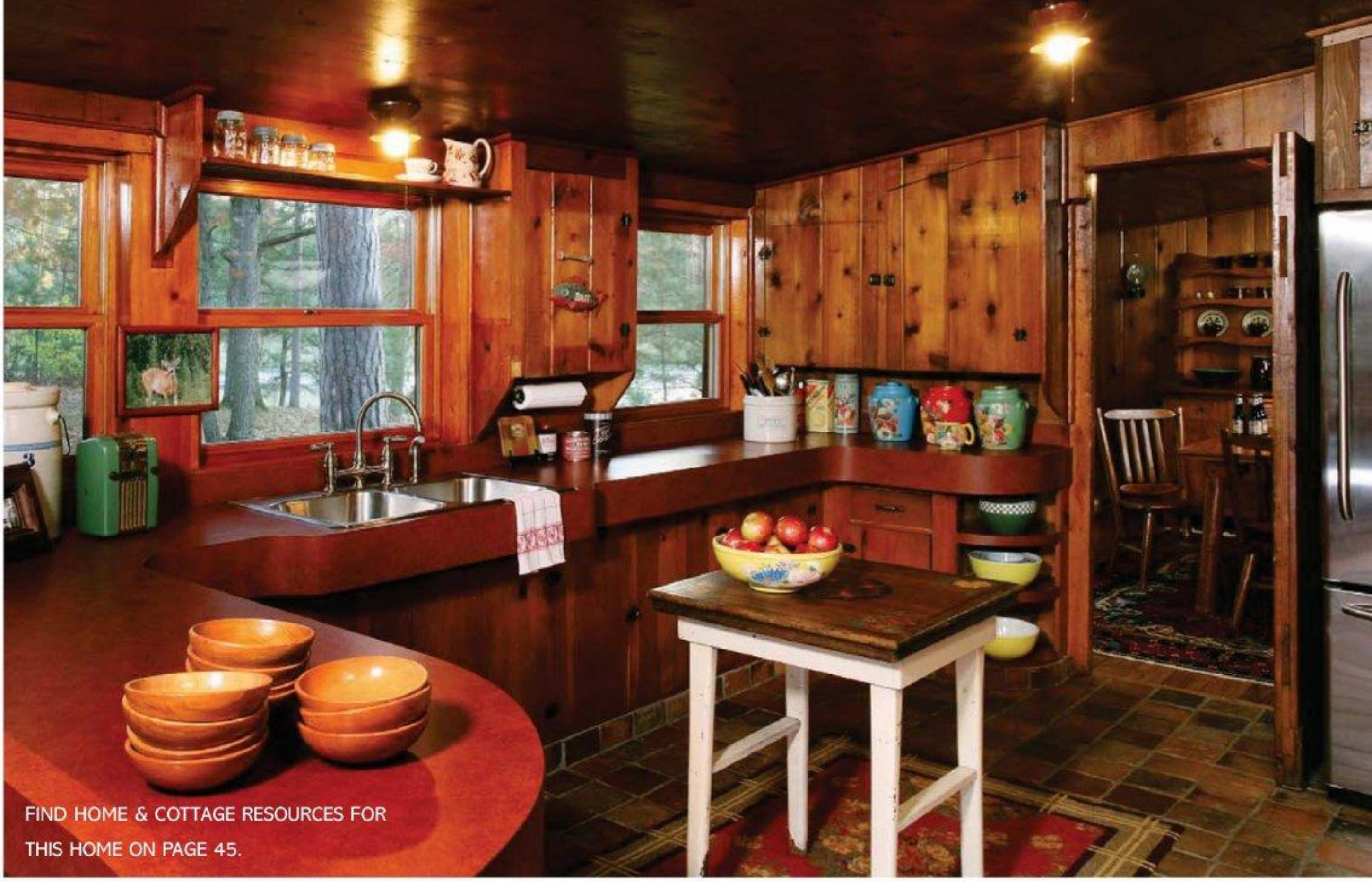
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The little cabin in the big woods. Three of the dining room chairs are original; the owner scoured Up North antiques shops until she found two more to match. The Red Wing Pottery in the hutch came with the cabin. The hand-hewn staircase leads to a loft.

Three-quarters of Oscoda County's land is covered in trees, so people don't buy a place here unless they love wilderness—and privacy. Which is why we'll just call the downstate couple who went searching these wilds for the quintessential Northwoods getaway, Jack and Jan.

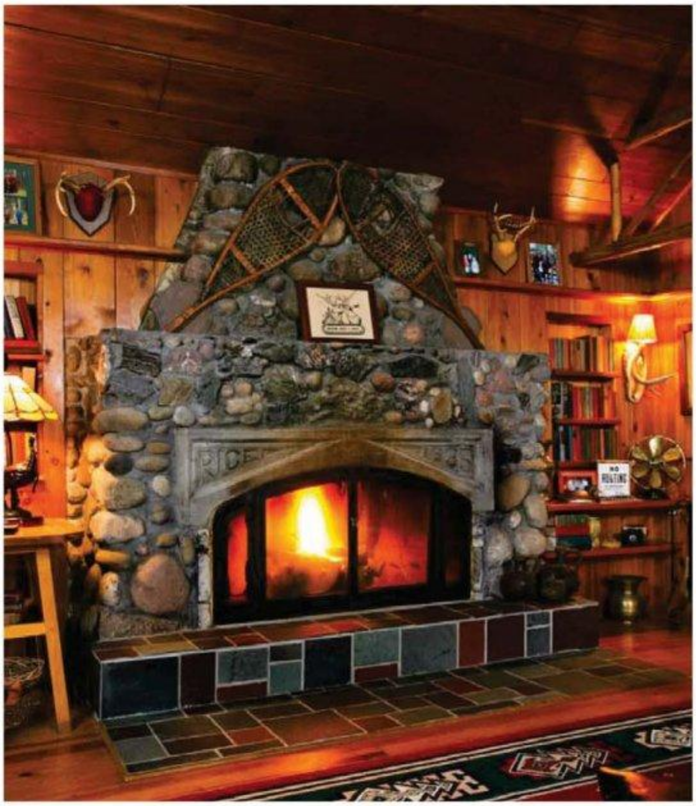
Jack wanted acreage to hunt on. Jan wanted a cabin that reminded her of her childhood vacations on East Twin Lake in nearby Lewiston. That cherished cabin had a stone fireplace, log furniture, knotty pine cabinets in the kitchen and, circling the driveway, a log rail that she often played on. Armed with family photos of the cabin, she'd planned to build a look-alike when they'd found the right property. Several years went by, and nothing was quite right. Then near dusk one day, after hours of real estate hunting, the couple's realtor took them to a cabin deep in the woods—the realtor didn't have the key with her, but she told them they'd be able to look in the windows.

As Jan describes in a short memoir she's working on about the cabin, "We drove farther and farther away from civilization. The woods surrounding the drive were fairylike—fern covering the ground and deer running through the fern. ... And then I saw it—the log rail surrounding the drive ..."

After a 30-mile roundtrip that same evening to fetch the key, the couple pushed open the cabin door to find a space seemingly out of Jan's memories—right down to the log furniture and knotty pine kitchen cabinets. The cabin appeared small on the outside, but inside they found six bedrooms—including a loft reachable by a hand-hewn log staircase—and a finished basement.



FIND HOME & COTTAGE RESOURCES FOR THIS HOME ON PAGE 45.



TOP: The knotty-pine paneling is original to the kitchen. The owners replaced the white vinyl floor and took down the duck-print curtains. The swinging kitchen door enhances the old cabin feel. **ABOVE:** In 1935 a previous owner built the hearth using a stone from every county in Michigan.

But by far the most remarkable feature was two arrows shot into the knotty-pine ceiling. They'd been there since 1939, the couple learned later from the grandson of the cabin's first owner, when the cabin was used as a sportsmen's getaway for some of the state's movers and shakers. Among those visitors were the soon-to-be–Michigan Governor Murray Van Wagoner and a Native American chief who, according to lore, sealed a water rights treaty by shooting the arrows.

Jack and Jan have been in the cabin for six years, and the arrows are still in the ceiling. The couple has made only minimal changes, mostly to the kitchen, where they replaced the out-of-date appliances and swapped the old white vinyl flooring with earth-toned antique pavers. Since the cabin was well stocked with wall taxidermy mounts and other vintage sportsman decor, Jan didn't have to do any decorating. Unless you count the black-and-white photographs of the Lewiston cabin she summered in as a child that she had framed and hung on a wall in the living room. "When people see the pictures they always say, 'This cabin has been in your family a long time,'" she says. The natural mistake always reminds her of the feeling she had when she first saw the log railing in the yard: finding this cabin was meant to be.

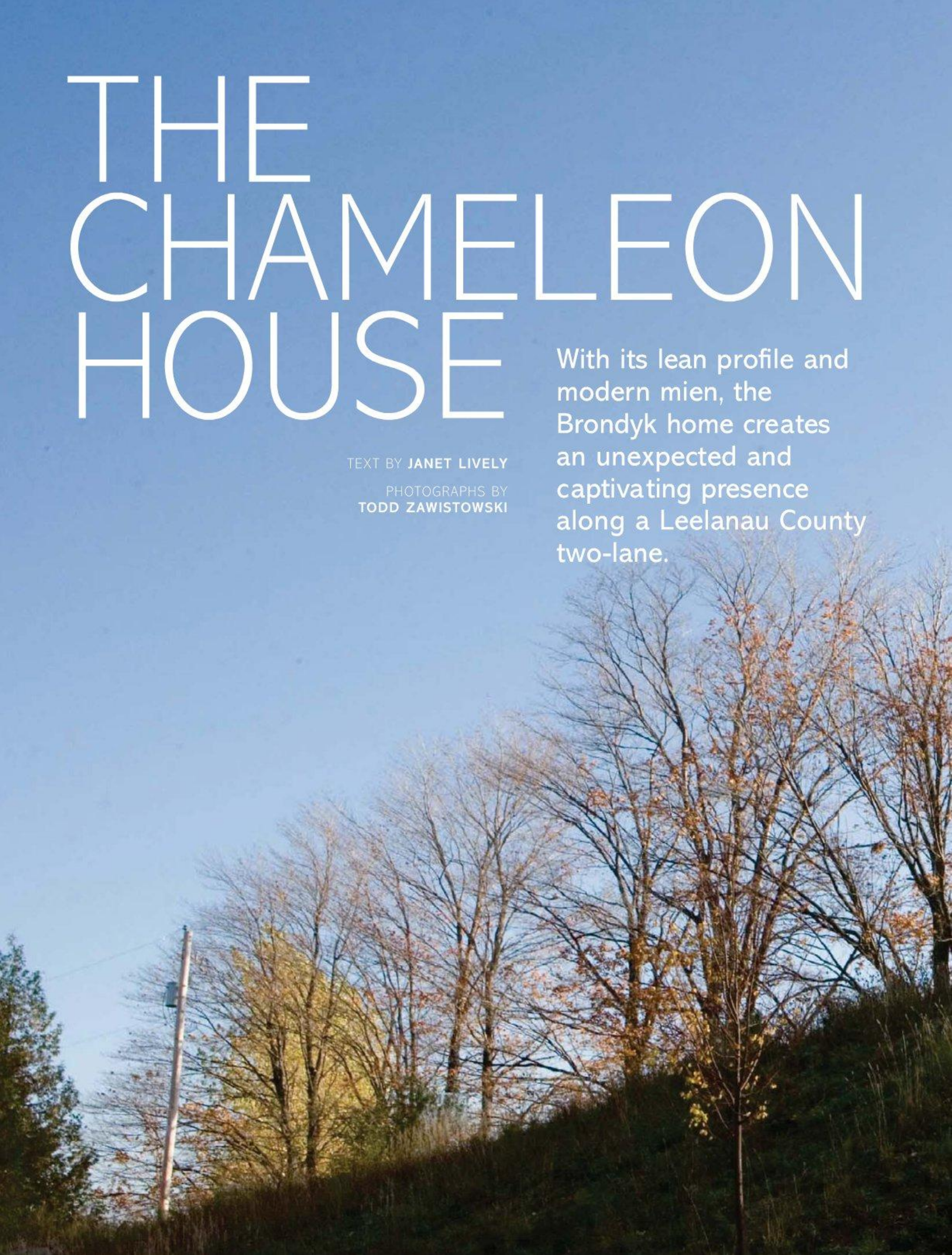
Elizabeth Edwards is managing editor of Northern Home & Cottage. LISSA@TRAVERSEMAGAZINE.COM

THE CHAMELEON HOUSE

With its lean profile and modern mien, the Brondyk home creates an unexpected and captivating presence along a Leelanau County two-lane.

TEXT BY **JANET LIVELY**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TODD ZAWISTOWSKI**







The view of Lake Michigan on the horizon makes a bold statement against the home's straightforward, clean style. **OPPOSITE, FROM TOP:** One corner of the rooftop deck is plumbed for an eventual hot tub. Commercial kitchen equipment can handle a crowd.

A stern wind blows across Lake Michigan

as Sue and Dan Brondyk battle spotted knapweed on the hillside alongside their vacation home. They yank the pest out by its non-native roots, hoping to restore the meadow on their one-acre lot disturbed during construction four years ago. "We're trying to let the hill go back to its natural state," Sue says. "We want to make it look like the house was just dropped in here."

Flanked by cherry orchards and with a full view of Lake Michigan, this rural stretch of M-22 is no place for a tame lawn, the Brondyks decided when they bought the Leelanau County property 10 years ago. Not that they were ever much interested in a suburban look. Aficionados of the hip and smart *Dwell* magazine, the Brondyks like their architecture edgy and environmentally responsible. Dan, especially, is intrigued by the attention to detail he sees in buildings in Asia, where he travels periodically on business.

When it was time to build, the Brondyks sought out the West Coast firm Anderson Anderson Architects because of its pioneering work in prefabricated, industrial-style dwellings. The Anderson brothers designed the house to resemble an agricultural structure, using corrugated metal siding and ensconcing the building in galvanized steel scaffolding. Long, narrow strips of windshield-grade acrylic attach to the scaffolding to create a reflective skin, leading the architects to dub the project the Chameleon House.

In the intense light of sunset and short winter days, the house shines with the color of the sky, becoming one with the landscape. Yet with its 32-foot-high profile and roadside location,









the Chameleon House does not otherwise go unnoticed. Some people seek it out, having seen it on the Travel Channel or read its praises in architectural publications. Passersby who chance upon the towering structure feel free to stop, consider and comment, as if examining art in a museum, Sue says.

The Brondyks, who ascribe to the not-so-big-house philosophy, hope these curbside critics get the message that small is huge; despite its height, the four-bedroom house is only 1,650 square feet. But the couple says they built for personal reasons, not to make a statement. After years of camping and moteling Up North, they longed for a permanent retreat and lots of shared space for their close-knit family of five. As such, the house is everything they had hoped for. "All places have a vibe, a feeling," Dan says. "This is a real cheerful, bright house."

FROM LEFT: Lower level windows are shielded behind the acrylic panels for extra privacy, while the upper windows bump out as far as the scaffolding, creating extra-deep window wells and an unobstructed view. At the main entryway on the rear of the house, acrylic panels provide some shelter from the elements, but the outside stairs catch plenty of wind. Bright reds and oranges enhance the warmth of the maple paneling.

Sunshine pours in through the tall front curtain wall and lights the house from top to bottom, thanks to an open design built around a middle staircase. The floor of each level is little more than an expanded landing along a stairway. Factory-tough open-tread metal stairs angle up four-and-a-half feet at a time, connecting six levels above ground, plus two more in the basement. The seventh level actually "floats" free of the sidewalls. Anchored to an I-beam frame, the house is sturdy as a vault. Dan jumps up and lands hard, but the floor doesn't so much as jiggle.

Sue likes the open design because it allows family members to feel connected even when they're on different floors. Working at her desk on the eighth level, she can hear a conversation in the kitchen or the chatter of daughters Kate and Grace from the den. The only drawback to all this openness is that anything spilled at the top of the grated-tread stairway



FIND HOME & COTTAGE RESOURCES FOR THIS HOME ON PAGE 45.

creates a multi-story mop job. That glass of wine, the time the dog got sick ... Sue can laugh about it now.

Fortunately, they designed the house with hard surfaces—concrete and rubber-tiled floors, unfinished maple plywood paneling, wipeable furniture—to make cleaning and maintenance easy. There's never a musty cottage smell, Sue says, and the house is casual and comfortable for the family and numerous houseguests, who come up year round.

Their kids' friends particularly love to visit, and no wonder. Ascending the open staircase feels like climbing a grandfather pine, especially the final flight, which cantilevers off the backside of the house, high above the campfire pit. The catwalk leads to a rooftop deck and an astounding view. One clear day, the Brondyks saw four islands: North and South Fox and North and South Manitou. On many clear nights, they've marveled at meteor showers and searched for the Northern lights.

On this blustery day, the Brondyks' son Kyle, an affable 15-year-old, points out another feature of the house—the whistling sound made by tiny holes in the scaffolding. "When the wind is at the right angle, the house sings to us," Kyle says.

A singing chameleon? How cool is that?

Janet Lively writes and teaches in Traverse City. JANETLIVELY@CHARTER.NET

Color this chameleon GREEN

Underneath its metal and plastic skin, the Chameleon House is all green. The exterior walls use structural insulated panels (known as SIPs—a thick layer of foam between sheets of oriented strand board) that provide high R-value insulation and limit the need for framing lumber. Radiant heat works particularly well in the concrete floors, and commercial-grade aluminum windows are extra snug. In summer, the SIPs and concrete floors also help keep the house cool. Window placement was designed to maximize cross ventilation; the house has no air conditioning and it's rarely missed, the Brondyks say.

Anderson Anderson Architecture, designers of the house, specialize in prefabrication, meaning that they design around the dimensions of the materials used, another green feature. The SIPs and maple plywood panels were installed with little cutting; the metal stairs came from factory stock. The house went up quickly and with a minimum of waste.



FROM TOP: Light shines through the acrylic panels in the basement-level guest bedroom. The seams in the concrete floors match up with the seams in the maple paneling, an example of the attention to detail coordinated by the architects and builder.

Here's the Story





... of a stylish young designer and her Brady Bunch–era home.

TEXT BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TODD ZAWISTOWSKI**








S VUITTON

Call it an unusual match: Beth McCarthy and the house she and her husband, Michael, purchased seven years ago. McCarthy, then the owner of Les Femmes boutique in Bay Harbor, is stylish, beautiful, well traveled. The house? An ordinary 1969 bilevel that spoke of bunk beds and school-lunch PB& J's made on the Brady Bunch–era yellow Formica kitchen counters. Even the "groovy" (McCarthy's word) orange and hot pink floral wallpaper in one of the bedrooms had endured.

But McCarthy loved the home's layout—from its neighborly come-on-in-for-a-martini foyer to the four bedrooms upstairs. She also knew that with savvy editing and her own fresh, Euro-looking style she could transform the home from a has-been to a retro sophisticate.

McCarthy began the makeover with two basic guidelines. Number one was replacing all appliances, lighting and plumbing, from the gold refrigerator to the archaic toilets. The second: give the home a neutral backdrop to allow her eclectic style to pop. With that second rule in mind, McCarthy took a cue from the home's original beige shag carpeting and replaced it with a more contemporary shag. Next she painted over the moss green walls and red brick hearth in the downstairs living area

OPENING SPREAD: McCarthy was so enamored with the matching topiary trellises (ONE SHOWN) from Savoir Faire in Bay Harbor that she never added the plants. The foyer rug is by Jonathan Adler. The bedroom coverlet set is by Lulu Dk. **OPPOSITE:** The triplicate of prints is by McCarthy's grandmother, Kathleen Demmer, done when she attended the Chicago Institute of Art in the 1940's. The matching chairs are from L'Esprit in Harbor Springs. The pillows are Jonathan Adler. **BELOW AND RIGHT:** In the kitchen and adjoining breakfast nook, McCarthy blends her young style with her grandmother's antiques.







THE MCCARTHYS'

Up North Favorites

FRIED & FUNKY: The best fried chicken and grooviest furnishings at Dam Site Inn, Pellston, 231-539-8851. DAMSITEINN.COM.

TO MARKET: The Original Thin Panini is to die for at Lake Street Market, Boyne City. 231-582-4450. LAKESTREETMARKET.COM.

FRESH FLOWERS: Monarch Garden & Floral Design, Petoskey. 231-347-7449.

PERFECT SUNSETS: Turquoise-hued Lake Charlevoix, where McCarthy has spent every summer since she was a young girl.

McCarthy's closet feels like a miniature of her former boutique, Les Femmes in Bay Harbor. The chandelier is an antique. The ottoman is by Jonathan Adler. The floating Lucite base, McCarthy says, perfectly captures the Brady Bunch–era spirit of the home.



FIND HOME & COTTAGE RESOURCES FOR THIS HOME ON PAGE 47.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The McCarthys' son, 4-year-old Anders, loves playing on the matching Moroccan poufs (ONE SHOWN) and ottoman. Anders's nursery before he moved down the hall to a more rustic, big-boy bedroom. Gallery-framed family photos line the stairwell wall.

and gave the brown laminate cupboards that flank the hearth a couple of coats of black lacquer. The use of black in the living room plays off of the Mediterranean-influenced black tiles and clean-lined wrought-iron banister in the adjoining foyer—both elements original to the home that McCarthy decided to keep.

She wasn't so magnanimous about anything in the kitchen. Everything but the paned windows that look out onto the tree-filled backyard went—replaced by an ebony-stained bamboo floor, Carrera marble counters, a bevel-edged white subway tile backsplash, sea grass wallpaper, and white cupboards and open shelves. A stainless hood and stove and a white floating-glass refrigerator round out a look that is equal parts neutral backdrop and glowingly Euro. McCarthy spiced it up with splashes of color—her Swedish grandmother's bright blue and white Delft pottery peeks out from shelves, and a set of bright-red Hermès plates hang on the wall.

In the breakfast nook McCarthy boldly paired an industrial-sized stainless pendant light with her grandmother's antique gate-leg table. A banquette covered in fabric designer Lulu Dk's Moondance pulls the contrasting looks together. The blue and white Swedish-inspired motif is fresh and young but rooted in tradition—a description that could just as well be applied to the banquette's owner.

Elizabeth Edwards is managing editor of Northern Home & Cottage.
LISSA@TRAVERSEMAGAZINE.COM



Autumn *in a* Box

I love the mail. Real mail. Fill my box with cards and I smile. Letters are even better, but give me a brown paper package tied up in string, and you have my heart.

It has always been this way. Even as a child I would mimic this most desirable of mail deliveries. I might take a small discarded box, fill it with a silly note about nothing, wrap it in paper, address it with sticker-stamps, and officially leave it on my mom's pillow, under her knitting, in her purse. She would play along with feigned surprise (Oh, what've we here? Another delivery, just for me?) as I giggled in the background.

My mom's family lives in England, so mail has always been a source of joy and excitement. I remember the light-blue letters with red stripes on the edges that came to us in Gaylord from so far away. The strange handwriting, the squares of the Queen's profile in shades of green and pink like a Warhol portrait. But I mostly remember the joy on my mom's face to have a bit of news from sisters and friends, a bit of nostalgia in a feather-weight envelope. Mail became love.

Eventually, I grew tired of receiving mail and decided to ship myself off to busier places away from the predictability of a small town. At the time, Up North seemed ordinary with its familiar trees and single area code. I wanted to be the one who sent the foreign package, the airmail envelopes, the Wish You Were Here postcards.

I made it as far as Ann Arbor.

After only five years there, even that became too familiar. So, with a new husband and a world of open doors, I headed away westward in our high-tech covered wagon. Yippee! I yelled out the window, waving my arm. Off to adventure! Off to new ZIP codes!

We cruised to Washington with the intent to explore boundlessly, to relish our freedom, to mingle with the big city. Instead, we found ourselves in an over-priced suburban rental and confined by jobs going nowhere. But we were out on our own. And never once was I homesick. Not even when I shrugged at the unblinking answering machine. Or frowned into the empty mailbox. I loved the icy (continuous) rain and the hour-long commute. It was fantastic simply because it wasn't home.

And then the fall came. I was teaching and busy—and there wasn't much of a season to notice. I didn't even realize October had arrived. Then on one of those wet afternoons, after a pleasantly long drive home, smiling and white-knuckled the whole way, I spotted a brown paper package perched on my doorstep. A package with string.

> I imagined my mom in the yard, gathering them for the box.

BY **ALI SULLIVAN**

At once, I recognized my mom's handwriting, all blocky and curvy. The package was for me; me with my new last name and far-away address, so foreign and lovely.

I snipped off the string, eased back the paper, and lifted off the top.

A box of leaves.

Fall leaves from my parents' backyard. That smell. It filled me with the tang of Northern Michigan in October. It was earth and decomposition and sunshine and pureness in maple shapes. I looked for a note or something to lead me to the conclusion I began to make for myself. Nothing but leaves. Golden yellows, soft roasted-looking reds, flaky brown ones, orange ones speckled with bits of brightness. I scooped an open hand under the pile and brought it up to my face. I closed my eyes and saw the trails my brother and I used to make in the yard, raked labyrinths leading nowhere. I inhaled and felt a shock of chilled air in my lungs, exhaled and heard geese in the sky. I looked at these leaves in my hands and imagined my mom in the yard, gathering them for the box. One by one, she chose them, each a separate expression of her hope that I would come back.

Leave it to my mom to use the United Stated Postal Service to achieve her ends. It worked. Within two years, I was home again.

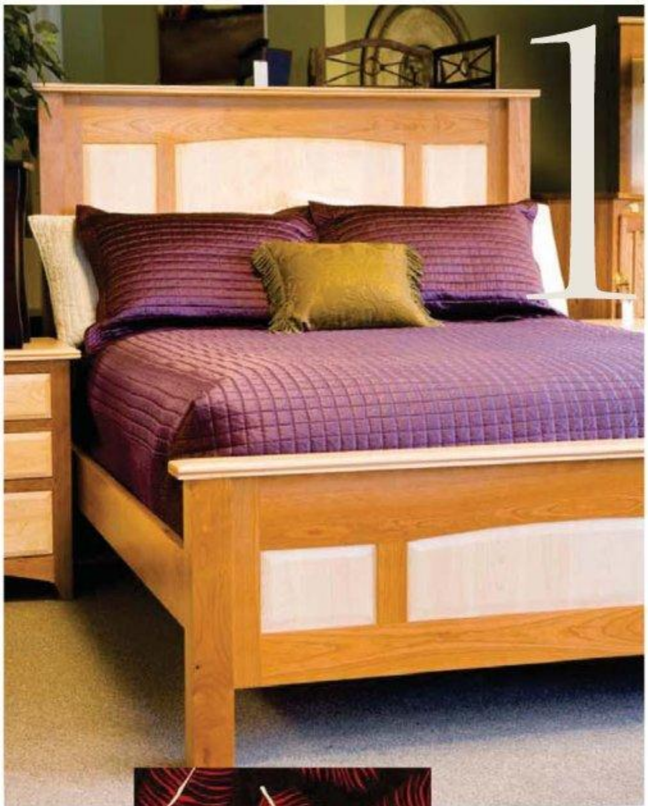
Ali Sullivan writes from Traverse City. SULLI203@YAHOO.COM

PHOTO: CHRISTINE BALDERAS.

Bedtime

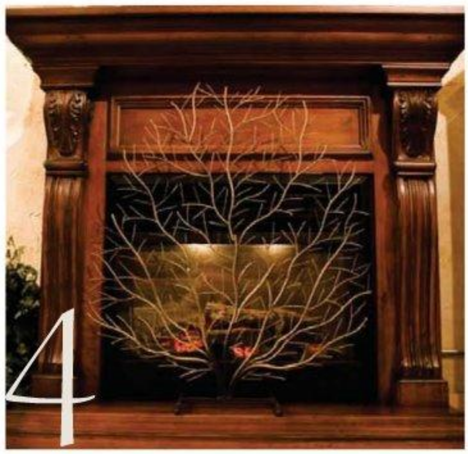
Rock-a-bye in rustic elegance.

BY **ELIZABETH EDWARDS**











BED, BLANKET AND FIREPLACE: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI. OTHERS: COURTESY THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.

GREEN idea **1** Amish craftsmen in Holmes County, Ohio, transformed maple and cherry harvested from a Northern forest into this queen-sized beauty called the Jefferson. Simply elegant, it's the ultimate in earth-friendly furniture. $1,585. BY CANDLELIGHT AMISH FURNISHINGS, TRAVERSE CITY. 231-941-1000, BYCANDLELIGHTLLC.COM.

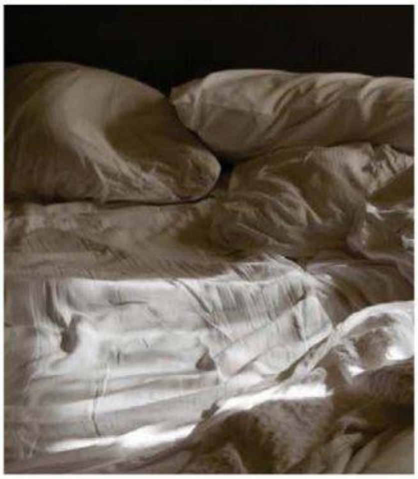
GREEN idea **2** Once upon a time Up North, Hudson's Bay point blankets were traded for beaver pelts. Nowadays, they buy you authentic style. All wool—easy on your body and the planet. TWIN, $370. WE FOUND OURS AT OUTDOOR ADVENTURES DOWN OUTLET IN ACME, 231-938-9779, DOWNOUTLET.COM.

3 Fab young designer Lulu Dk gives the Up North look a refined twist with her Porcupine motif. FABRIC, $112 A YARD. LULUDK.COM.

4 Put fire in your bedroom. No vents required. This electric fireplace (plug it right into the wall socket) has a realistic flame and kicks out 5,000 BTU's of efficient heat. Shown here: pine mantel with an antique chestnut stain. $2,418. (TWIG SCREEN, $73). THE NEST, TRAVERSE CITY. 231-946-0232, NESTOFGRANDTRAVERSE.COM.

5 Lake Superior stones hand-carved to snuggle together make this lamp a natural for a rustic bedroom. $575. ROCKIN' K STONEWORKS, TRAVERSE CITY. 231-313-7844, ROCKINKAYE.COM.

TURN THE PAGE FOR ECO-FRIENDLY MATTRESSES.



Sleep Green, Sleep Healthy

GREEN idea The alphabet-soup of questionable chemicals that most mattresses are made of is enough to keep you up at night. The solution? A mattress made from all natural materials.

Organic

Vivetique Sleep Systems delivers a healthy night's rest on mattresses made with organic cotton and pure wool. Queen styles, $1,000 TO $2,300. GREEN ISLAND, TRAVERSE CITY, 231-933-8465, GOGREENISLAND.COM.

Earth-Friendly Organics mattresses made with organic cotton quilt cover, natural latex and wool fill. QUEEN, $1,600. THE BEDROOM COMPANY, TRAVERSE CITY. 231-941-1191, TCBEDROOMS.COM.

All Natural, Handmade

At Beds By Design in Harbor Springs owner Rory Karpathian channels his 24 years in the mattress industry into making fine handmade mattresses. The company uses only cotton, wool, damask and natural latex. An all-natural queen starts at $2,349. 231-347-0696, BEDSBYDESIGN.COM.

Eco-friendly, Factory Made

The King Koil Comfort Solution line is 96 percent earth (and body) friendly. QUEEN, $1,599. ART VAN FURNITURE, TRAVERSE CITY. 231-932-1050, ARTVAN.COM.

Northern Home & Cottage
resources

Lucky Shot



ELECTRIC
Gaylord Electric, Lewiston, 989-786-3885; light over pool table, Advance Electric, Gaylord, 989-732-2485, advanceelectric.com

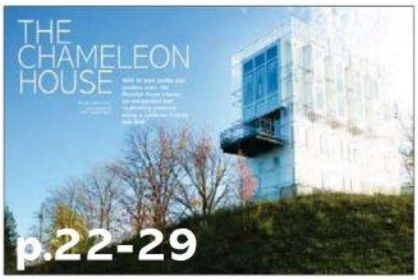
CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS
Gerta's Draperies, Inc., Gaylord, 989-732-3340

KITCHEN AND BATH UPDATES
Stanson Floor Covering & Furniture, Alpena, 989-356-2807, stansonllc.com

STOVE BACKSPLASH TILE
Pratt & Larson, prattandlarson.com

KITCHEN FLOOR
Antique pavers, Virginia Tile Company, Farmington Hills, 888-224-0544, virginiatile.com

The Chameleon House



ARCHITECT
Mark and Peter Anderson, Anderson Anderson Architecture, San Francisco & Seattle, 415-243-9500, andersonanderson.com

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Comstock Construction, Traverse City, 231-946-4911, comstock construction.com

ROOFING AND SIDING
Traverse Bay Roofing, Traverse City, 231-943-4454, traversebay roofing.com

ELECTRICAL
Feyen Zylstra, Traverse City, 231-486-8800, feyen-zylstra.com

PLUMBING
Precision Plumbing & Heating Systems, Traverse City, 231-947-0100, precisiontc.com

WINDOWS
Litex Incorporated, Rochester Hills, 248-852-0661, litex.com

Northern Home & Cottage

resources

Here's the Story



INTERIOR DESIGNER
Beth McCarthy, Petoskey, 231-675-7872

GARDEN SUPPLIES
Christians' Renolda Greenhouse & Garden Center, Harbor Springs, 231-526-2851

BUILDER
Todd Vandenbrink, Traverse City, 231-330-2332

KITCHEN DESIGN
Kitchen & Co., Petoskey, 231-348-6906, kitandco.com

BAMBOO FLOORING, SUBWAY TILE
Builders Flooring Outlet, Harbor Springs, 231-348-8229

FURNISHINGS & ACCESSORIES
L'Esprit, Harbor Springs, 231-526-9644; Pillows, foyer rug: Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com; kitchen banquette fabric: Lulu Dk Fabrics, luludk.com

PAINT
Benjamin Moore



TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.



Easiest Pickled Veggies

Don't pitch that pickle juice. Use it to make crunchy hors d'oeuvres.

Trim a handful of fresh green beans and a couple large cauliflower florets. Peel and slice three or four carrots. Peel and cut an onion into chunks. Rinse all the veggies well and put them in a jar of pickle juice. Cap with the pickle juice lid and marinate the veggies in the refrigerator for several days then serve on salads or as hors d'oeuvres. Store in refrigerator for up to two weeks.—E.E.

TODD ZAWISTOWSKI.